



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, January 08, 2008

Major Developments

Update: Less than 20,000 Customers Remain Without Power throughout West Coast States

Starting on January 4, a series of wind, rain and snow storms struck the West Coast. Northern California was hit the hardest with strong rain, winds and over 3 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada. Restoration efforts are underway and utility crews have made vast progress. Down from 2.75 million customers without power, less than 20,000 customers remain without power due to the winter storm, the majority of them PG&E customers, according to news reports mid-afternoon on January 8. Over 120 additional crews have been brought to Northern California from Nevada, Oregon, Southern California, and other California areas not currently impacted to expedite the power restoration. A majority of the remaining customers without service require extensive repair of the electrical poles and facilities. Over 500-miles of power lines have been rebuilt says a PG&E company representative.

West Coast Storm Customer Power Outages			
January 4 – 8, 2008			
Electric Utility	State	Affected Customers	Latest Reported
Pacific Gas & Electric	CA	2,200,000	14,900
Southern California Edison	CA	301,400	0
Sacramento Municipal Utility District	CA	150,000	1,100
Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power	CA	42,000	376
San Diego Gas & Electric	CA	15,300	0
Pacific Power	WA/OR/CA	30,000	1,400
Portland General Electric	OR	5,000	200
Puget Sound Energy	WA	2,000	0
Seattle City Light	WA	700	0
Rocky Mountain Power	UT	4,500	300
La Plata	CO	4,425	500
Total Affected		2,755,325	18,776

Note: “Affected Customers” captures company estimates of customers who have experienced outages since the beginning of the storms on January 4. “Latest Reported” captures the latest reported number of outages as of 3:30 pm EST January 8.

Sources:

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/ALL/8E53C98E9843A37F882573C600542A86?OpenDocument>

Sacramento Municipal Utility District as of 9:10 am EST 1/8/08 <http://www.smud.org/power/outage-response.html>

Rocky Mountain Power as of 2:20 am EST 1/7/08 http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_7899975

La Plata Electric Association as of 7:30 am EST 1/8/08 http://www.lpea.com/company_info/outage_hotline.htm

Pacific Power as of 12:00 am EST 1/7/08 http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=7586923&nav=menu484_2_8

Portland General Electric as of 7:46 pm EST 1/5/08:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-22/1199559277294370.xml&storylist=orlocal>

Puget Sound Energy: http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=7581864&nav=menu484_2_8

Seattle City Light: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/255/story/282699.html>

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080107/aqm306.html?v=1>

http://www.news10.net/display_story.aspx?storyid=37098

AES's 332 MW Alamos 3 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut January 7

Reuters, 19:45 January 7, 2008

NRG/Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo 3 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut January 7

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200801071515.html>

Reuters, 19:45 January 7, 2008

Entergy's 967 MW River Bend Nuke-fired Unit in Louisiana Shut January 7

Reuters, 19:45 January 7, 2008

Calpine's 525 MW Sutter Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service January 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned curtailment of 300 MW on January 7.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200801071515.html>

Oklahoma Corporation Commission to Formally Investigate Underground Electricity Distribution Lines

Taking into consideration the 600,000 Oklahoma customers who lost electric power due to the ice storm of early December 2007, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) on January 7 directed its staff to fully investigate the costs and benefits of undergrounding existing distribution lines; to decide whether the high cost of undergrounding could be justified in some cases and how the programs might be financed.

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6704229.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Probe NRC's Safety and Oversight Operations

The House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will conduct a comprehensive review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) operations following reports of security guards sleeping on the job at the Exelon Peach Bottom nuclear plant in Pennsylvania. Additional NRC issues mentioned in the Subcommittee press release as topics for oversight include nuclear power plant license renewal, licensing of a mixed-oxide fuel fabrication plant in South Carolina, fire protection, and stockpiling of potassium iodide.

http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110nr149.shtml

Allegheny Energy and West Virginia's Public Service Commission's Consumer Advocate Division Reach Agreement in Power Line Case January 7

A portion of the new 240-mile multistate power to be called the Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line will be allowed to pass through a portion of northern West Virginia in accordance to the agreement reached January 7. The conditions of the agreement are as follows; affected landowners are to receive up to 1,000 kilowatts of free electricity a month for the life of the line and the utility will not conduct herbicide spraying along the route of the new line; the consumer advocacy group will not oppose the need for the transmission line and will notify the PSC that the proposed route through West Virginia is acceptable.

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080107/wv_multistate_power_line.html?v=1

Sempra's 625 MW Termoelectrica De Mexicali 1 Gas-fired Unit in Mexico Returns to Service January 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned curtailment of 150 MW on January 7.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200801071515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Valero to Delay Restart of Fire-Damaged Propane Deasphalter at its 170,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery until End of January 2008

After rates were cut by a fire in February 2007, the refinery has been moving toward full capacity. Bad weather has made the repairs difficult to perform and Valero will delay the restart of the fire-damaged propane deasphalter until the end of January from the end of December.

Reuters, 08:33 January 8, 2008

Update: Fire-Damaged Bitumen Upgrader Returns to Normal Rates at Shell's 98,000 b/d Scotford Refinery in Alberta January 8

The 155,000 b/d bitumen upgrader, which converts bitumen extracted from Alberta's oil sands into refinery-ready crude, has returned to normal output rates following damage caused by a November fire.

Bloomberg News, 11:31 January 8, 2008

Update: BP to Restart Ultracracker at its 475,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery January 5-10

The ultracracker was shutdown on December 22 because of a high reactor temperature and was then idled again after a leak was detected in a heat exchanger during the first restart attempt January 5. The ultracracker will ramp up from January 5 – January 10.

Bloomberg News, 13:54 January 7, 2008

Oil Output Suspended at Talisman Energy's North Sea Oil Fields

Talisman Energy Inc's Ross and Blake oil fields in the North Sea were shut off after stormy weather on January 4-6 led to injuries among workers on the production vessel, according to a company representative. Production of approximately 25,000 boe/d is expected to resume in the next few days as safety officials finish an investigation into the incident.

Reuters, 14:29 January 7, 2008

Natural Gas

Update: Dominion Transmission's Open Season Receives Over 570,000 Dt/day of Interest in its Proposed Dominion Hub III Project

Dominion Transmission announced January 8 it received a strong response to its open season for its proposed Dominion Hub III project to offer its customers access to new natural gas supplies expected from the Rocky Mountain region. Dominion Transmission will continue forward with obtaining binding precedent agreements.

<http://www.dom.com/news/ep2008/pr0108.jsp>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices January 8, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	97.22	95.45	56.08
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.61	7.11	6.02

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Westar Energy Reports a “Transmission Event” Knocking Out Power to 15,522 Customers in Kansas January 8

<https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>
<http://www.kansas.com/news/updates/story/275080.html>

Cat Causes Short Circuit at an Electrical Substation, Blamed for Knocking out Power to 12,000 Idaho Power Customers in Idaho January 8

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/01/08/cat_blamed_for_idaho_blackout/

Tornado Causes Damage and Cuts Power to Over 12,000 Customers in Central Arkansas January 8

http://www.thecabin.net/stories/010808/loc_0108080034.shtml

Storms Knock Out Power to 10,000 City Utilities of Springfield Customers in Missouri, Approximately 5,000 Customers Remain Without Power

<http://www.sbj.net/article.asp?aID=92202911.9313928.1039519.371513.5183766.113&aID2=79954>

Update: Cooling Water Line Leaks Radioactive Water at FirstEnergy’s 898 MW Davis-Besse Nuclear Reactor January 7

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080107/oh_nuclear_plant_leak.html?v=1

United Steelworkers (USW) Refinery Survey Shows Causes of BP’s 2005 Texas City Refinery Explosion Prevalent Throughout Industry

<http://www.usw.org/usw/program/content/4414.php>

North Dakota Public Service Commission Approves Enbridge’s Proposed Pipeline Route-Construction to Begin Fall 2008

<http://www.acppubs.com/article/CA6518110.html>

South Dakota Governor Expresses Support for Hyperion Resources’s Proposed Oil Pipeline and Refinery near Elk Point, South Dakota

<http://www.kxmb.com/getArticle.asp?ArticleId=196043>
<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080108/NEWS/80108029/1001>

Fog Halts Galveston Bay’s Inbound Tanker Traffic in Texas January 8

Bloomberg News, 10:34 January 8, 2008

CONSOL Energy's Baltimore Coal Port Experiencing Temporary Outage January 7, Could Affect 500,000 Tons of Shipments to Europe

Reuters, 15:25 January 8, 2008

Crude Output on the Rise at Shell's Forcados Oil Terminal in Nigeria, Company Rep Says 8 of 15 Crude Flow Stations Now Back Online

Reuters, 10:30 January 8, 2008

Cairn India Increases Output Forecast for Rajasthan Field in Western India from 100,000 b/d to 125,000 b/d

Reuters, 05:20 January 8, 2008

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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